

ECASB Update

Member Districts: Akron, Alden, Amherst, BOCES 1, BOCES 2, Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Cheektowaga-Sloan, Clarence, Cleveland Hill, Depew, East Aurora, Eden, Frontier, Grand Island, Hamburg, Holland, Hopevale, Iroquois, Ken-Ton, Lackawanna, Lake Shore, Lancaster, Maryvale, North Collins, Orchard Park, Springville GI, Sweet Home, Tonawanda, West Seneca, Williamsville

Fall Edition 2008 Vol. 4, Issue 1

"Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts – the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art." – John Ruskin.



Attorneys participating in this year's WNY Law Conference Legal Crossfire were (from left) Dave Farnelo, Hodgson Russ; Deb Marriott, NYS Education Department; Tracie Lopardi, Harris Beach; Ron Mendrick, Harter, Secrest & Emery; Andrew Freedman, Norton/Radin/Hoover/Freedman; Jay Worona, NYSSBA.

'Very motivating and informative'

"Very motivating and informative," are the words that best sum up feedback from this year's WNY Education Law Conference attendees. 93% of those responding to the annual evaluation survey ranked the conference "outstanding" or "good" – those are great kudos for this year's event, which ran an additional strand of sessions to help participants get the most from the program.

The theme, "Preventing, Addressing and Responding to Staff Misconduct," was a timely one and attendance topped 230. ECASB and our partner in this event, the WNY Educational Service Council, thank all of our presenters and participants!



This year's WNY Education Law Conference drew some 230 participants from more than 40 school districts in Erie and neighboring counties.



Attending the 2008 Leaders' Forum were more than 70 ECASB members, including members of the Lackawanna (top) and Cheektowaga Boards of Education. The event was a collaboration of ECASB and the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association, with Hodgson Russ as program sponsor.

You, Your School Board and THE MESS We're In

An ECASB Dessert Forum and Discussion
in collaboration with the Erie-Niagara School
Superintendents Association
featuring **David Little**
Director of Governmental Relations,
New York State School Boards Association

7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13
355 Harlem Road, West Seneca

The original theme of this Dessert Forum has been modified to reflect recent events. Rather than focus solely on educating students for a global economy, Dave will talk about the implications for schools in light of the current fiscal meltdown and in the aftermath of elections.

He will start with the local, move on to the state, and then national and international implications.

\$10/members; \$50/non-members.
Please register
via your Superintendent's Office,
or at snowak@e1b.org or 821-7297

ECASB is on the Program in San Diego!

ECASB has been invited to present at the National School Boards Association Conference this April in San Diego! The 75-minute presentation will be on this past spring's program, "MY Story, MY Song ... The Great Myth of Being Cool."

The "Great Myth of Being Cool," first envisioned by ECASB and Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, became a reality thanks to the help of several partnering organizations, sponsors and volunteers. The day-long program provided sessions in which students worked with teaching artists and educators to create their own personal expression in hip hop, poetry, journal writing, music and dance.

Telling our story in San Diego is a remarkable opportunity to share this program with school boards across the country, further expanding the network of caring individuals that can help promulgate the tools, motivation, and encouragement to move our youth toward a more productive future.

Among the presenters will be Mary Busse, President of ECASB; Thomas Kulaszewski, President of PPPE, and Jane Burzynski, ECASB Executive Director. YAY, ECASB!

ECASB Provides Mandatory Training for Newly-Elected Board Members

All newly-elected board members are required by New York State law to complete a six-hour Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training course by the end of their first year in office. ECASB is a state-approved provider of that training. Thanks to our partnership with Erie 1 BOCES, if you are a member of ECASB, or if your district is a member of the Erie 1 BOCES Finance & Legislation service, the cost is only \$25 for the full six-hour training. The charge to non-members is \$125.

ECASB will hold the next FORT training on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Cheektowaga High School, 3600 Union Road. Sign-in will be from 8:45 to 9 a.m. The program will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please register through your Superintendent's Office, or call 821-7297.

NOTE:

After Nov. 15, the next ECASB/Erie 1 BOCES FORT training will be on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Erie 1 BOCES. That is one week after the ECASB New School Board Member Academy (June 6, 2009 at the Millennium).

SAVE the DATE: ECASB's Annual "Just in Time for School Budget Season: The Nuts & Bolts of \$ and Cents Academy" on School Finance, Budgeting, Purchasing and Related Matters

9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Sat, Jan. 10, 2009
355 Harlem Road, West Seneca

Register through your Superintendent's Office, or contact Shirley at snowak@e1b.org or 821-7297

ECASB Profile (Who we are, according to our recent member survey)

Roughly 20% of our members responded to this year's online member survey, conducted through surveymonkey.com. Here are the results:

Most respondents (55%) were fairly new members (0-3 years), followed by veterans (24%) of 10 or more years. 13% have been in school board service for 4-7 years, and 9% for 8-10 years.

Right now, most respondents consider financial matters, including budget, state aid and taxes, as their district's primary concern (45%), followed by matters dealing with curriculum, assessment and achievement (16%).

78% of respondents read *ECASB Update*, the electronic ECASB newsletter, and about half of respondents say they use the ECASB web site, ecasb.org.

Most respondents (58%) say the Thursday evening dessert sessions (7-9 p.m.) are the most convenient time for programs followed by Saturday morning sessions (38%).

Most respondents consider training, information, sharing and networking the most valuable services provided by ECASB.

See you in NYC!

Upstate Downstate Resolutions Discussion

for
Erie County Association of School Boards
Four County SBA
Genesee Valley SBA
Monroe County SBA
Rockland County SBA
Westchester-Putnam SBA
Niagara-Orleans SBA
Nassau-Suffolk SBA

OPEN DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NYSSBA RESOLUTIONS

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

***The Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers
Riverside Ballroom
Third Floor***

*Members of the Westchester-Putnam SBA
will lead the discussion.*

No fee. No reservations necessary.

Upstate Downstate HOSPITALITY SUITE

***The Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers
October 16 - 18, 2008
Suite 3001***

*(Should there be a last minute suite change,
notice of the new location will be posted
at 3001 and elsewhere)*

**Sponsored by:
Ashley McGraw Architects, Hodgson Russ,
Turner Construction**

**Open to members of
Erie County Association of School Boards,
and the school boards associations of
Four County, Genesee Valley, Monroe County,
Rockland County, Westchester-Putnam, Niagara-
Orleans, and Nassau-Suffolk.**

The Suite will be open:

Thursday	7:45 p.m. – midnight
Friday	5:30 p.m. – midnight
Saturday	1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 p.m. – midnight

Do you know where your tax dollars go? The state comptroller has been promoting a new website "**Open Book New York**," where school districts and other municipal financial information will be easily accessible to the public. For more information, go to <http://www.openbooknewyork.com>.

Oct 20-24 ... School Board Recognition Week

Coming Up:

Registration and Information: 821-7297 or snowak@e1b.org

November 2008

- 4 Election Day
- 11** ***Veterans' Day (Office Closed)***
- 13 You, Your School Board and THE MESS We're In, Dessert Forum with David Little, NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations, 7-9 p.m., Rm. B2a & B2b
- 15** **Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility Training @ Cheektowaga High School, Registration ... 8:45-9 a.m.; Program ... 9-3:30 p.m.**
- 20 Budget & Finance Meeting, 6-7:15 p.m., Rm. B1
- 20 Legislative Team Meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., Rm. A1
- 27/28** ***Thanksgiving Recess (Office Closed)***

December 2008

- 4 Executive Board Meeting, 5-6:30 p.m., Rm. A3, and PPPE Annual Meeting of the Member, 7-8:30 p.m., Rm. A2
- 24, 25** ***Winter Recess (Office Closed)***
- 24-Jan. 1 Winter Recess, E1B & E2CCB

January 2009

- 1** ***New Year's (Office Closed)***
- 8 Budget & Finance Meeting, 6-7:30 p.m., Rm. B2b
- 10** **Nuts & Bolts of Dollars & Cents, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Rm. B1**
- 15 Executive Board Meeting, 5-6:45 p.m., Rm. A2
- 15 Legislative Team Meeting, 7:15-9 p.m., Rm. A3
- 19** ***Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (Office Closed)***
- 22 Delegate Assembly, 7-8:30 p.m., Rm. B2b

2008-09 ECASB Executive Board

Officers:

Mary Busse (West Seneca) President
Richard Vogan (Lake Shore) Vice President
Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Treasurer

At-large members:

Ray Carr (Cheektowaga)
Michael Connors (Springville)
David Ehrle (Lancaster)
Ramona Popowich (Williamsville)
Donald Sniezak (Orchard Park)

Buffalo Representative:

TBD

Superintendent Representative:

James Bodziak (East Aurora)

NYSSBA Area 1 Representative:

David Smaczniak

Immediate Past President:

Jack Semler (Clarence)

Have a news item you would like to share? Send to jburzynski@e1b.org for the next ECASB Update!

